1. (Currently amended) Apparatus for dispensing pulverulent coating material, the apparatus including an opening through which the pulverulent material is discharged and a conduit through which the pulverulent material is transported from a source to the opening, the conduit including a seal member, a first member including a first reducer section including a first feature and a second member including a first expander section including a second feature, the second member being downstream from the first member in the flow of the pulverulent material, the first and second features cooperating to define a space for accommodating the seal member between the first reducer section and the first expander section.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the conduit further includes a second reducer section, and a second expander section.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first member is provided in a first structural component and the second member is provided in a second structural component adapted to be selectively coupled to the first structural component, the seal member sealing the selective coupling between the first and second structural components.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first reducer section includes a first cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the first expander section includes a second cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof, and the seal member provides a transition from the first cross-sectional area to the second cross-sectional area.

5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first reducer section includes a first cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a second cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross sectional area of the first reducer section decreasing uniformly from the first cross-sectional area to the second cross-sectional area.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the first expander section includes a third cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a fourth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross sectional area of the first expander section increasing uniformly from the third cross-sectional area to the fourth cross-sectional area.

7. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first expander section includes a first cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a second cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross sectional area of the first expander section increasing uniformly from the first cross-sectional area to the second cross-sectional area.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second reducer section includes a first cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a second cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross sectional area of the second reducer section decreasing uniformly from the first cross-sectional area to the second cross-sectional area.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the second expander section includes a third cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a fourth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross sectional area of the second expander section increasing uniformly from the third cross-sectional area to the fourth cross-sectional area.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the second expander section includes a first cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a second cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross-sectional area of the second expander section increasing uniformly from the first cross-sectional area to the second cross-sectional area.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the first reducer section includes a third cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a fourth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross-sectional area of the first reducer section decreasing uniformly from the third cross-sectional area to the fourth cross-sectional area.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the second expander section includes a fifth cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a sixth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross-sectional area of the second expander section increasing uniformly from the fifth cross-sectional area to the sixth cross-sectional area.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the first expander section includes a seventh cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and an eighth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross-sectional area of the first expander section increasing uniformly from the seventh cross-sectional area to the eighth cross-sectional area.

14. (Currently amended) Apparatus for dispensing pulverulent coating material, the apparatus including an opening through which the pulverulent material is discharged and a conduit through which the pulverulent material is transported from a source to the opening, the conduit including a first reducer section, a first expander section, a second reducer section, and a second expander section, the first expander section being downstream in the flow of pulverulent coating material from the first reducer section, the second reducer section being downstream in the flow of pulverulent coating material from the first expander

section, and the second expander section being downstream in the flow of pulverulent coating material from the second reducer section, the first reducer section including a first cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a second cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the first expander section including a third cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a fourth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the second reducer section including a fifth cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and a sixth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, and the second expander section including a seventh cross-sectional area at an inlet end thereof and an eighth cross-sectional area at an outlet end thereof, the cross-sectional area of the first reducer section decreasing uniformly from the first cross-sectional area to the second, the cross-sectional area of the first expander section increasing uniformly from the third cross-sectional area to the fourth, the cross-sectional area of the second reducer section decreasing uniformly from the fifth cross-sectional area to the sixth, and the cross-sectional area of the second expander section increasing uniformly from the seventh cross-sectional area to the eighth.

15-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the second cross-sectional area is substantially equal to the third cross-sectional area.

25. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the sixth cross-sectional area is substantially equal to the seventh cross-sectional area.

26. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the sixth cross-sectional area is substantially equal to the seventh cross-sectional area.